

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 00892 151515Z
ACTION EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /004 W
-----105059 151518Z /64
R 151445Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4566

C O N F I D E N T I S L SOFIA 0892

FOR EUR/EE 3 COPIES ONLY

FOR ANDREWS FROM MAGEE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. SCHMIDT VISIT. CARL'S LONG OVERDUE VISIT WENT VERY WELL AND WE COVERED A LOT OF GROUND IN A SHORT TIME. OUR INTERLOCUTORS IN THE MFA FOURTH DEPARTMENT ARE IMPRESSED BY ALL THE ATTENTION EUR IS GIVING BULGARIA, WITH SEVERAL VISITS TO SOFIA (INCLUDING THOSE SCHEDULED) IN A THREE-MONTH PERIOD.

2. SONANDRES ETA. DAN SIMPSON PLANS TO DEPART ABOUT JULY 21. WE REQUEST THAT SOUNANDRES ARRIVE AROUND JULY 15 OR 16, SO THAT THEY CAN HAVE SEVERAL DAYS OVERLAP TO PASS ALONG CONTACTS, ETC.

3. POSSIBLE NAVY SHIP VISIT. IF THE NAVY IS STILL THINKING OF PROPOSING A SHIP VISIT TO VARNA IN AUGUST, WE WILL NEED TO RAISE THIS VERY SOON WITH THE BULGARIANS IN ORDER FOR THE VISIT TO HAVE A CHANCE OF APPROVAL. OUR DAO REPORT ON LWST FALL'S BRITISH SHIP VISIT (031037Z NOV 77) STRESSED THAT A FORMAL PROPOSAL FOR A SHIP VISIT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE BULGARIANS AT LEAST FOUR MONTHS IN ADVANCE. AMBASSA-
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DOR GARTHOFF RECENTLY MENTIONED TO GOTSEV THE GENERAL POSSIBILITY OF A SHIP VISIT WITHOUT INDICATING ANY TIME FRAME. GOTSEV REACTED RATHER NEGATIVELY, POINTING OUT THAT BULGARIA COULD NOT RECIPROCATE. GOTSEV'S PRELIMINARY REACTION DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT THE GOB DECISION WOULD BE NEGATIVE. BUT IT DOES INDICATE, WE THINK, THAT APPROVAL WILL NOT COME EASILY OR RAPIDLY; SOME ELEMENTS IN

THE GOB, ESPECIALLY THE MILITARY, WILL BE RELUCTANT FOR SUCH A VISIT TO TAKE PGACE. THIS IS ALL THE MORE REASON TO ALLOW LEAD TIME. PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRESS DOD.

4. CHANCERY SITE. I MET WITH AMBASSADOR ILIEV OF BODK ON MAY 11 FOR A GENERAL REVIEW OF THE CHANCERY QUESTION. ILIEV CONFIRMED THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CITY PLAN, THE DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO MOVE FROM OUR PRESENT CHANCERY. THIS DECISION WAS FINAL AND CATEGORICAL. HE GAVE NO INDICATION OF TIMING, HOWEVER, NOR DID HE IMPLY THAT WE WOULD BE PRESSURED TO MOVE. HE FURTHER INDICATED THAT THE BULGARIANS HAVE NOT DECIDED WHAT TO DO IN WASHINGTON. WE AGREED THAT THERE WOULD BE ADVANTAGES IN A RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE OF SITES OR BUILDINGS, BUT THAT THE TWO SIDES MIGHT ALSO CHOOSE TO PROCEED SEPARATELY IN EACH CAPITAL. I MADE CLEAR THAT THE USG HAS REJECTED THE BUILDING ON DIMO HADJI DIMOV STREET--THE ONLY ONE SHOWN TO US--JUST AS WE HAVE REJECTED ALL THE BUILDING SITES EARLIER OFFERED TO US. I STRESSED THE NEED TO PUT THE PAST BEHIND US AND MAKE A RENEWED EFFORT TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM TOGETHER, TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE PRESENT IMPROVED STATE OF OUR RELATIONS ANB LOOKING TOWARD A FUTURE IN WHICH OUR RELATIONS WOULD MOVE FURTHER TOWARD NORMALIZATION. I SAID WE WERE ANXIOUS TO BE SHOWN BOTH SITES AND EXISTING BUILDINGS. ILIEV PROMISED THAT THERE WOULD BE PROPOSALS FROM THE BULGARIAN SIDE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
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5. I DID NOT RAISE THE MATTER OF THE EXPIRATION OF THE THREE-YEAR CHANCERY LEASE ON JUNE 30--WHICH ILIEV OF COURSE IS WELL AWARE OF. WE ARE ROUTINELY REQUESTING A RENEWAL OF THE LEASE AND WILL SEE WHAT HAPPENS. HOW BODK CHOOSES TO HANDLE THIS--WHETHER THEY WILL RENEW AT ALL, OR INSTEAD ALLOW US TO CONTINUE ON A MONTH-BY-MONTH TENANCY WITHOUT A LEASE, AND HOW MUCH THEY RAISE THE RENT--WILL GIVE US SOME INDICATION OF WHAT LIES AHEAD. THE BALL IS NOW IN TME BULGARIANS' COURT.

6. ACCESS TO EMBASSY. IN RECENT MONTHS WE HAVE HAD A NUMBER OF MINOR INCIDENTS WITH THE MILITZIA IN FRONT OF THE EMBASSY INTERFERING WITH PEOPLE WHO WISH TO ENTER. SOME BULGARIANS AND FOREIGN STUDENTS HAVE BEEN TURNED AWAY. FOREIGN DIPLOMATS, FOREIGN AND AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN, AND EVEN WIVES OF AMERICAN EMBASSY STAFF MEMBERS HAVE BEEN CHALLENGED. AMBASSADOR GARTHOFF RAISED THIS MATTER ON APRIL 27 WITH GOTSEV, AND ON MAY 10 I DISCUSSED IT WITH MFA PROTOCOL DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMYANOV. HE CONCEDED THAT THE MILITZIA HAVE NO RIGHT TO OBSTRUCT ENTRY TO THE EMBASSY TO ANYONE HAVING A VALID REASON TO ENTER, AND PRO-

MISED THAT THESE INCIDENTS WOULD CEASE. WHILE THIS IS ONLY AN ORAL COMMITMENT, IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT HE CONCEDED THE POINT THAT THE MILITZIA HAVE NO RIGHT TO SCREEN OUR VISITORS. WE WILL DEFINITELY REFER TO THIS STATEMENT OF DAMYANOV'S IF WE SHOULD HAVE OCCASION TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT AT A LATER DATE.

7. AIRGRAMS. HENCEFORTH WE WILL POUCH AN ADVANCE COPY OF EACH OF OUR AIRGRAMS DIRECTLY TO EE.

8. OERS. ALL OUR OERS ARE IN, THE LAST ONES HAVING BEEN POUCHED ON MAY 10.
GARTHOFF

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SOFIA00892
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780205-0369
Format: TEL
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780558/aaaabxcu.tel
Line Count: 128
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 506dc19c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2688192
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL
TAGS: OGEN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/506dc19c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014